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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/510,913	02/23/2000	Robert Lane Cook	25791.02	3719
27683	7590	10/29/2004	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			BOMAR, THOMAS S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3672	

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/510,913

Applicant(s)

COOK ET AL.

Examiner

Shane Bomar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,6,8 and 12-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6,8,12-15 and 22-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4 and 16-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Since new rejections are being presented in this Office Action, the finality of the previous Office Action is hereby withdrawn. Applicant's first submission after final filed on 9/10/04 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 2, 4, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,083,608 to Abdrakhmanov et al (the '608 patent).

Regarding claim 2, the '608 patent discloses a wellbore casing 2 that comprises a tubular member including at least one thin wall section 3, 4 at an end of the tubular and a thick wall section adjacent the thin wall section, wherein a compressible annular member 31 is coupled to each thin wall section (see Figs. 5 and 6).

Regarding claim 4, the '608 patent discloses a wellbore casing that comprises a first tubular member 2 having a first inside diameter, and a second tubular member 2 having a second inside diameter equal to the first diameter coupled to the first tubular in an overlapping relationship (see Fig. 5), wherein the first and second tubulars are coupled by the process of deforming a portion of the second tubular into contact with a portion of the first tubular (see Fig. 6 and col. 5, lines 10-34).

Regarding claim 16, the compressible annular member 31 of claim 2 is coupled to an exterior surface of the thin wall section 3 of the tubular member (see Fig. 5).

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Regarding claim 17, the thin wall section 3, 4 of claim 2 is plastically deformed (see col. 5, lines 10-34).

Regarding claims 18 and 20, a portion of one tubular of claim 4 overlaps with a portion of the other tubular, wherein the portion of the one tubular member that overlaps with the portion of the other tubular member comprises a thin walled portion 3, 4; and wherein the portion of one tubular member that does not overlap with the portion of the other tubular member comprises a thick walled portion (see Figs. 5 and 6).

Regarding claims 19 and 21, the thin walled portion of claim 18 or 20 comprises a compressible annular sealing member 31 (see Fig. 5).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 1,880,218 to Simmons.

Regarding claim 4, Simmons discloses a wellbore casing D that comprises a first tubular member having a first inside diameter, and a second tubular member having a second inside diameter equal to the first diameter coupled to the first tubular in an overlapping relationship (see Fig. 5 and page 2, lines 99-105), wherein the first and second tubulars are coupled by the process of deforming a portion of the second tubular into contact with a portion of the first tubular (see Figs. 4, 7, and 9; and page 3, lines 9-24 and lines 57-69).

5. Claims 4, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 5,957,195 to Bailey et al.

Regarding claim 4, Bailey et al disclose a wellbore casing 500 that comprises a first tubular member 501 having a first inside diameter, and a second tubular member 502 having a second inside diameter equal to the first diameter coupled to the first tubular in an overlapping

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relationship (see Fig. 10C), wherein the first and second tubulars are coupled by the process of deforming a portion of the second tubular into contact with a portion of the first tubular (see Fig. 10A and claim 6).

Regarding claims 18 and 20, a portion of one tubular of claim 4 overlaps with a portion of the other tubular, wherein the portion of the one tubular member that overlaps with the portion of the other tubular member comprises a thin walled portion 503, 504; and wherein the portion of one tubular member that does not overlap with the portion of the other tubular member comprises a thick walled portion (see Fig. 10C).

6. Claims 2, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6,425,444 to Metcalfe et al. It is noted that the subject matter of these claims could not be found in any of the priority documents for the current application, therefore, the earliest date given to this subject matter is the filing date of 2/23/2000.

Regarding claim 2, Metcalfe et al disclose a wellbore casing 16 that comprises a tubular member 18 including at least one thin wall section 30 at an end of the tubular and a thick wall section 32 adjacent the thin wall section, wherein a compressible annular member 36 is coupled to each thin wall section 30 (see Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 25-36).

Regarding claim 16, the compressible annular member 36 of claim 2 is coupled to an exterior surface of the thin wall section 30 of the tubular member (see Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 17, the thin wall section 30 of claim 2 is plastically deformed (see Figs. 2-5).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 6, 8, 12-15, and 22-41 are allowed.

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*Conclusion*


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shane Bomar whose telephone number is 703-305-4849. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David J. Bagnell  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

tsb   
October 25, 2004